

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CPR-01 PM-04 SAM-01 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6204

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, OEXC, SCUL, ASEC, BE

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. OF KING AND QUEEN OF BELGIUM

1. BELGIUM'S KING BAUDOUIN AND QUEEN FABIOLA WILL VISIT U.S. MARCH 22-28. EMPHASIZING THIS WAS "PRIVATE VISIT," THE KING'S GRAND MARSHAL, HERMAN LIEBAERS, TOLD US THAT THIS WAS TO BE FIRST OF SERIES OF VISITS TO US BY THE KING AND QUEEN-"ONE EACH YEAR"-OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. LIEBAERS SAID THAT KING DECIDED TO LIMIT THIS SHORT VISIT TO TWO PLACES: YALE UNIVERSITY AND LONG ISLAND. HE SAID THE KING CHOSE YALE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) ROBERT TRIFFIN, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AND MASTER OF BERKLEY COLLEGE, IS OF BELGIAN ORIGIN AND OLD FRIEND OF KING; TRIFFIN, WHO RETIRES THIS YEAR, INVITED KING TO YALE.

B) YALE, ONE OF NATION'S OLDEST UNIVERSITIES, IS FITTING OBJECT OF VISIT DURING BICENTENNIAL YEAR. KING WILL COMBINE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WITH YALE HISTORIANS AND POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AND TOURIST VISITS TO POINTS OF INTEREST IN NEW ENGLAND REGION. DETAILS OF PRIVATE VISIT TO RESIDENCE OF FRIEND OF KING IN LONG ISLAND NOT YET AVAILABLE.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS-MAJOR RUBENS FROM KING'S HOUSEHOLD WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 29 TO ADVANCE THE TRIP. BELGIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY, WHICH IS INVOLVED IN COORDINATING VISIT, WILL PUT HIM

IN CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. LIEBAERS
TOLD US RUBENS IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
KING'S TRIP, INCLUDING MATTERS OF SECURITY AND AIRCRAFT LANDING
CLEARANCES. THE KING AND HIS PARTY OF APPROXIMATELY 10
PERSONS WILL BE TRAVELING IN A BELGIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

3. WE OFFERED THE GRAND MARSHAL ANY ASSISTANCE THAT WE COULD
RENDER TO KING AND QUEEN, AND HE WILL PROVIDE US WITH DETAILED
ITINERARY WHEN AVAILABLE.RENNER

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